

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO THE SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE COUNCIL

CAC Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2021

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

Maureen Dolan Murphy, Chair CAC/Citizens Campaign for the Environment
George Costa, Trout Unlimited/Art Flick Chapter
Sally Kellogg, NYS DOS/Reserve Office
Jeremy Campbell, NYS DOS/Reserve Coordinator
Rachel Neville, NYS DOS/Reserve Office
Lane Smith, Chair TAC/NY Sea Grant
Lou Siegel, NYS Marine Education Association
Judi Bird, League of Women Voters Brookhaven
Artie Kopelman, Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island (CRESLI)
Aleida Perez, Brookhaven National Labs
Alli DePerte, Atlantic Marine Conservation Society (AMCS)
Maureen Dunn, Seatuck Environmental Association
Emily Hall, Seatuck Environmental Association
Arielle Santos, Seatuck Environmental Association
Rob Weltner, Operation SPLASH
Rob DiGiovanni, Atlantic Marine Conservation Society (AMCS)
Steve Fuoco, South Shore Rotary Clubs

1. Introductions

M. Dolan Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Election Overview: New Reps for the SSER

There are 3 new State Senate and Assembly members to the districts in the South Shore Estuary Reserve watershed: Senator Alexis Weik, Assemblyman Michael Durso and Assemblyman Jarett Gandolfo. M. Dolan Murphy asked if the CAC should send a welcome letter to new and old legislators introducing the SSER, the CAC membership agreed.

3. Offshore wind Overview

New York passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act in 2019 which is the most aggressive clean energy and climate agenda in the country. By 2030 70% of energy must be generated by renewable energy and offshore wind is a necessary component to achieve this goal. Another goal of carbon free electricity by 2040 was also set with a net-zero carbon economy by 2050. A goal of 9,000MW of offshore wind by 2035 was outlined and 6,000MW of solar power by 2025. Offshore wind benefits include 9,000MW will power 6 million homes and

provide 30% of NY's electricity and offshore wind farms will create 10,000 local jobs in manufacturing, installation and operations. Each project will undergo an in-depth environmental review process, including opportunities for public comment. In 2018 NYSED released an Offshore Wind Master Plan which outlines the best locations for wind farms, these are still waiting on federal approval.

Question: G. Costa: Who owns the land?

Answer: M. Dolan Murphy: This is federal land and the wind energy companies must lease the land from the federal government.

There are some projects moving forward. South Fork wind farm is furthest along and currently anticipates having 15 turbines and is 30 miles off Montauk. The original plan approved in 2016 could create 90MW of energy but now can produce 130MW with the same number of turbines due to technological improvements. The draft environmental impact statement has been released and is open for comment until February 22, 2021. The South Fork virtual public meetings will be February 9 1pm-3pm, February 11 5pm-7pm, and February 16 5pm-7pm. M. Dolan Murphy will send around the meeting notices.

Sunrise wind is slated to generate 880 MW which should power 500,000 homes. This project anticipates being fully operational by 2024. This project is located 30 miles off Montauk, will create 100 full time jobs and have committed to a \$10 million training program. The training will be hosted by a SUNY school or perhaps Suffolk County Community College, the details have not yet been finalized. A cable will be required to bring energy on shore to a substation. The proposed route of the buried cable will go along the William Floyd Parkway and connect at the Holtsville substation.

Empire Wind will generate 800 MW of power, this will be 14 miles off the coast of Long Beach. The project will create America's first offshore wind manufacturing plant located in the Port of Albany that will generate 350 direct jobs.

Wind Works Long Island is a coalition of environmental, labor, clergy, and community groups, and the force behind educating the Long Island community on the benefits of renewable energy, particularly offshore wind <https://windworkslongisland.org/>. Anyone interested in the coalition should reach out to M. Dolan Murphy.

Question: M. Dolan Murphy: Is the CAC interested to hear presentations from the developers with more in-depth information?

Answer: A few members said yes.

M. Dunn noted the Biodiversity Research Institute held a state of the science on wind and wildlife recently.

4. Seagrass Stewardship

S. Kellogg asked for volunteers to help with a seagrass social media campaign with the goal of increasing citizen stewardship and promoting the environmental services that eelgrass meadows provide. A. DePerte volunteered. A. Kopelman commented that GPS locators on cell phones may not be accurate so the “Got Seagrass” tool may not be as reliable for tracking seagrass meadows.

5. South Shore Estuary Reserve Office

J. Campbell encouraged CAC members to participate in the SSER ISR, reported that SSER staff are still working on the SAV Gateway Story, and reminded members to send any newsletter topics to SSER staff. L. Smith said the TAC is focusing on SAV. The next meeting is February 2.

Question: M. Dolan Murphy: When is the next Council meeting?

Answer: J. Campbell: Hopefully this spring.

5. Public Comment/Announcements

Lane Smith – Northeast Sea Grant Consortium is developing an RFP on wind energy with a focus on social science which will be released in March, more details to come. NY Sea Grant released the regular research call, request for proposals are due in February and 2 fellowship opportunities are available.

Arielle Santos – The Community Science LI webinar series highlights citizen science opportunities and is a monthly series with topics including bats, river herring, etc. The first session will be January 27, 2021 on River Otters. M. Dolan Murphy offered to send out to CAC distribution list.

George Costa – There has been an increase in public use of the Carmans River since the pandemic began including a large volume of canoe/kayakers on the River. Some of these visitors are not respectfully using the natural environment. A. Kopelman concurred that he noticed similar issues in Moriches Bay. This was suggested this as a topic for the SSER newsletter. L. Smith volunteered to look for materials Sea Grant has already created, and that Sea Grant would like to help in coordinating creation of outreach materials. A. Kopelman asked if SSER has funding available for this? R. DiGiovanni noted that messaging on, “how to interact with wildlife” is needed all over Long Island as well as along the coast or at a boat launch. J. Campbell asked the CAC to put together ideas for an estuary wide “how to interact with wildlife” campaign. A proposal with these ideas would help move this effort forward, groups at all levels including state, county, and local municipalities should also be included in this. M. Dunn asked if there is DOS funding for this if a project is put together? J. Campbell replied that a few solid ideas need to be put together to be able to ask for funding. J. Bird suggested writing an article for Newsday. M. Dolan Murphy said the subject will be included in the March meeting agenda. It was noted that this is a difficult subject because it is a goal to have the public out and enjoying natural spaces, but this should be done in an appropriate and responsible way.

Art Flick Trout Unlimited Chapter alewife ladder in the Carmans River needs to be professionally cleaned and asked for help to apply for a grant for funding the activity.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.